

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02
/061 W

-----171853 080597 /46

R 171617Z FEB 77
FM AMCONSUL EDINBURGH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1209
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS EDINBURGH 025

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UK
SUBJECT: VALENTINE'S DAY DEVOLUTION LOVE FEAST ON BBC SCOTLAND

1. ON FEBRUARY 14, FORMER SHADOW SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND, ALICK BUCHANAN-SMITH, AND LIBERAL LEADER, DAVID STEEL, WERE INTERVIEWED TOGETHER ON PUBLIC ACCOUNT, A WEEKLY BBC FEATURE DEALING WITH SCOTTISH POLITICS.
2. BUCHANAN-SMITH AND STEEL INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD NOT SUPPORT THE GUILLOTINE MOTION ON THE DEVOLUTION BILL AND WERE ALSO EXTREMELY CRITICAL OF THE WAY THE BILL IS BEING HANDLED BY MICHAEL FOOT AND THE GOVERNMENT. BUCHANAN-SMITH MADE THE POINT THAT THE ATMOSPHERE OF GOOD WILL, WHICH HAD ALLOWED THE DEVOLUTION BILL TO PASS ITS SECOND READING BY A LARGE MARGIN, HAD NOW EVAPORATED. CHANCES FOR THE GUILLOTINE WERE ASSESSED AT ABOUT 50/50, AND, IF IT PASSED AT ALL, IT WOULD DO SO BY ONLY 2 OR 3 VOTES. HOWEVER, BOTH INDICATED THAT IF THE BILL FAILED, THEY WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND DID NOT RULE OUT A FUTURE GUILLOTTINE, SO FAILURE OF THIS GUILLOTINE MIGHT NOT BE THE END OF DEVOLUTION BILL IN THIS SESSION.
3. STEEL AND BUCHANAN-SMITH WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE SNP ROLE, POINTING OUT THAT AS THEIR GOAL WAS INDEPENDENCE, IT WAS

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IN THEIR INTEREST TO HAVE THE WORST DEVOLUTION BILL POSSIBLE. BUCHANAN-SMITH WAS PARTICULARLY ELOQUENT IN EXPRESSING HIS DESIRE FOR A "GOOD" DEVOLUTION BILL, AND BOTH MEN AVOWED THAT THEIR STRONG COMMITMENT TO DEVOLUTION WAS UNCHANGED.

4. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS INDEED APPROPRIATE TO THE DATE AND AN UNINITIATED OBSERVER MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT THAT STEEL AND BUCHANAN-

SMITH WERE MEMBERS OF THE SAME PARTY.DOBBS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VOTING, LEGISLATIVE BILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977EDINBU00025
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770057-0514
Format: TEL
From: EDINBURGH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770233/aaaabcwp.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UK, (BUCHANAN-SMITH, ALICK), (STEEL, DAVID)
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Type: TE
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